

Part III: Conversations

Up until now, we've talked about Chores, Work, and Allocating What We Earn. Those topics require intentional effort and systems. But another essential piece is simply having meaningful conversations with our kids about money—how it works, how we use it, and how it impacts daily life.

Think of chores and allocation as the foundation. Conversations build upon that foundation, and fill out the landscape and context for how things work in real life. 'Aha' moments.

Why Conversations Matter

- Kids learn money habits from what we say and do. Do they know what we're doing?
- Everyday financial moments are teaching opportunities (gas pump, ATM, shopping).
- Our attitudes toward money leave lasting impressions, forming what experts call a 'Money Script.'

What is a Money Script?

A money script is an unconscious belief or attitude about money, shaped in childhood through family experiences, culture, and observations. These scripts deeply influence how we spend, save, and invest as adults. By being intentional, we can help write healthy money scripts for our kids.

Reflection Questions:

- What money habits (good or bad) did you learn from your parents?
- When you look back, how did your parents' financial decisions impact you?

Everyday Opportunities

Bring Kids with You

- Invite them to the bank, grocery store, ATM, post office, or even car shopping. Use the moment to explain what's happening.

Play Board Games

- Games like Life and Monopoly provide fun, hands-on ways to learn math, money management, and decision-making.

Talk About Big Purchases

- Use opportunities like home projects, car shopping, or paying bills to explain costs, budgeting, and trade-offs.

Kids + Finances Seminar – Handouts



College Planning

- Discuss options, costs, scholarships, and loans. Let kids compare schools and see the impact of financial choices.

Key Lessons to Teach

Wants vs. Needs

- Help kids distinguish between essentials and extras. Consider setting contribution limits and letting them cover upgrades themselves.

The Power of No

- Show them that saying no to unnecessary things doesn't reduce happiness—it builds discipline and freedom.

Saving and Retirement

- Explain compounding interest and the importance of saving early. Keep it simple, but let curiosity guide deeper conversations. Rule of 72 is easy and impactful.

The Big Picture

Conversations don't have to be formal lessons. The goal is to engage as life happens—during errands, family decisions, or even games. Small, consistent conversations shape lifelong money habits. By noticing everyday opportunities, we can help our kids develop wisdom, confidence, and healthy money scripts.